

TARIFF ACTION MEMORANDUM

File No.: TA344-13 Date: April 15, 2021¹
Date Filed: March 2, 2021
Statutory End Date: April 16, 2021

Utility: Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc.
Description: Rule 8 – Service Connections Revisions

Synopsis of Filing:

Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc. (GVEA) seeks to revise its service connection rules of its tariff.

Tariff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Commission approve Tariff Sheet Nos. 2.1, 22, 23, 23.1, 23.2, and 23.3 filed on March 2, 2021, effective April 16, 2021 as shown on the side-by-side tariff sheets attached as Exhibit JOL-1.

Reason(s) for the above-indicated recommendation: See attached memorandum.

Signed: James Layne Title: Utility Engineering Analyst
James "Jay" Layne

Commission decision regarding this recommendation:

	Date (if different from 04/15/21)	I CONCUR	I DO NOT CONCUR	I WILL WRITE A DISSENTING STATEMENT*
Pickett		<u>RMP</u>		
Kurber II		<u>KKI</u>		
Scott		<u>AGS</u>		
Sullivan		<u>DS</u>		
Wilson		<u>JWW</u>		

*If this column is initialed, Staff will contact the Commissioner for the statement; otherwise, the dissent will simply be noted at the close of the By Direction letter or order.

¹ Staff signed the memorandum on April 13, 2021.

STATE OF ALASKA
The Regulatory Commission of Alaska
701 West 8th Ave., Suite 300
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3469

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Robert M. Pickett, Chairman
Keith Kurber II
Antony Scott
Daniel A. Sullivan
Janis W. Wilson

Date: April 15, 2021²

From: Jay Layne, Utility Engineering Analyst

Subject: TA344-13, Golden Valley Electric Association
Service Connection Revisions

STATEMENT OF CASE

Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc. (GVEA) seeks to revise its service connection rules of its tariff.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission approve Tariff Sheet Nos. 2.1, 22, 23, 23.1, 23.2, and 23.3 filed on March 2, 2021, effective April 16, 2021 as shown on the side-by-side tariff sheets attached as Exhibit JOL-1.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On March 2, 2021, GVEA filed TA344-13 to revise its Rule 8 - Service Connections section of its tariff.³ Public notice was issued on March 4, 2021, with a closing date of April 5, 2021.⁴ No public comments were received.

ANALYSIS

Staff reviews proposed tariff sheets to ensure the stated text is easily understood, and the tariff provisions clearly and comprehensively describe and address the situation to which the tariff provision applies. Staff reviews the proposed tariff language for

² Staff signed the Tariff Action Memorandum on April 13, 2021.

³ *Golden Valley Electric Association –Rule 8 Revision*, filed March 2, 2021 (TA Filing).

⁴ *Public Notice for Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc.* issued March 4, 2021.

consistency with the Commission regulations and industry standards. When approving the tariff filing, the Commission must be assured that rates and services are just, reasonable, and non-discriminatory.⁵

GVEA filed this tariff advice in compliance with 3 AAC 48.200 – 3 AAC 48.430.⁶ Staff also confirmed the proposed tariff sheets are compliant with 3 AAC 48.330, 3 AAC 48.340, 3 AAC 48.360(g)⁷ and 3 AAC 50.910(d).⁸

Proposed Revisions

Since 2015, GVEA has been involved in an extensive project to update and modernize its tariff. This filing is the eighteenth in a series of filings that will ultimately be incorporated into GVEA's Electric Operating Tariff No. 2.⁹ This filing revises Rule 8 – Service Connections, which has not been updated since GVEA's original tariff filing in 1977.

A majority of the proposed tariff revisions include numerous textual, section title, and other organizational-type changes. In addition to the housekeeping-type revisions, GVEA has added language to two subsections under Rule 8 – Service Connections: Rule 8.01 – General Requirements and Rule 8.08 – Underground Locate Service.

Section 8.01 contains new language intended to bring the tariff into conformity with the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC). GVEA adds language stating that any requirement for a Member to make a payment under Rule 8 shall be in writing, this addition reflects language found in 3 AAC 52.455(b). GVEA also adds language that reminds the Member that GVEA has the right to conduct reasonable inspections, charge applicable inspection fees, and may inspect a Member-constructed service connection for conformance with state and GVEA requirements, this addition reflects language found in 3 AAC 52.455(e)(1) and Rule 5.03 of GVEA's tariff.¹⁰ The proposed language is consistent with applicable AAC and existing tariff sections and adds clarity to the section therefore Staff recommends the Commission approve this new language.

Section 8.08 addresses GVEA's Underground Service Locate policy. GVEA is a member of the 811 Alaska Digline, Inc, which is a certified pre-excavation messaging center

⁵ See AS 42.05.411, *New or Revised Tariffs*, AS 42.05.291, *Standards of Service and Facilities*, AS 42.05.301, *Discrimination in Service*, AS 42.05.391, *Discrimination in Rates*, and AS 42.05.381, *Rates to be Just and Reasonable*.

⁶ See 3 AAC 48.200-430, *Utility and Pipeline Tariffs*.

⁷ 3 AAC 48.330 provides for the format of the tariff sheets. 3 AAC 48.340 provides for the designation of the tariff sheets. 3 AAC 48.360(g) governs the symbols used to indicate the purpose and effect of text revisions on a tariff sheet.

⁸ 3 AAC 50.910(d) requires the tariff sheet to state the number of kilowatts equivalent to 1.5 percent of the electric utility's average retail demand for the previous calendar year and the total nameplate capacity of net metering participants.

⁹ *TA Filing*, at 2.

¹⁰ GVEA Tariff Rule 5 – Technical Provisions and Standards of Electric Service. Rule 5.03 – Inspection.

between excavators and underground utility facility owners. 811 Alaska Digline enables the public, contractors, utilities and other excavators to notify underground facility owners of planned digging activities with one call. The added language to Section 8.08 is not a replacement of the 811 Alaska Digline service but a summary of applicable state statutes regarding underground utility facilities and excavation requirements.

GVEA's added language in Section 8.08 - Underground Service Locate is modeled to follow the applicable provisions of AS 42.30.400 – AS 42.30.490 and modified for GVEA's current business practices. GVEA has summarized the following state law sections and has incorporated them into their tariff:

- Sec. 42.30.400. Excavator's notice of proposed excavation.
- Sec. 42.30.410. Operator's response to request to locate; immunity related to unmarked or inaccurately marked facilities.
- Sec. 42.30.420. Responsibility of construction project owners.
- Sec. 42.30.430. Obligations concerning the conduct of excavations.
- Sec. 42.30.440. Penalties; injunctive relief.
- Sec. 42.30.450. Waiver of requirements by written agreement.
- Sec. 42.30.460. Underground facility owner.
- Sec. 42.30.490. Definitions.

The proposed language regarding underground service locates is consistent with Alaska statute, its tariff and provides Members a summary of excavation laws regarding underground utility facilities therefore Staff recommends the Commission approve this new language.

CONCLUSION

With TA344-13, GVEA continues its quest to update and modernize its tariff one rule at a time. This filing is the 18th in a series of filings that began in 2015. TA344-13 has several grammar/text revisions and adds language to its Rule 8 – Service Connections that is consistent with other sections of its tariff and Alaska law. Staff agrees with GVEA's proposal and therefore recommends the Commission approve Tariff Sheet Nos. 2.1, 22, 23, 23.1, 23.2, and 23.3 filed on March 2, 2021, effective April 16, 2021.

Signature: 

Email: bob.pickett@alaska.gov

Signature: 
Keith Kurber II (Apr 15, 2021 09:29 AKDT)

Email: keith.kurber@alaska.gov

Signature: 

Email: antony.scott@alaska.gov

Signature: 
Daniel Sullivan (Apr 15, 2021 10:33 AKDT)

Email: daniel.sullivan@alaska.gov

Signature: 
Janis W. Wilson (Apr 15, 2021 16:33 AKDT)

Email: janis.wilson@alaska.gov

RCA No. 13 Fifth Revision Sheet No. 2.1
 Canceling: Fourth Revision Sheet No. 2.1

RECEIVED

MAY 10 2018

STATE OF ALASKA
REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA**GOLDEN VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.****RULES AND REGULATIONS****TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)**

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D – Section heading, 6.14, Disconnection, has been deleted as it has been relocated to proposed Rule 22.

Tariff Advice No. TA315-13 Effective: **June 25, 2018**

Issued by: Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc.

By: *Cory R. Borgeson* Title: President & CEO

RCA No. 13 Sixth Revision Sheet No. 2.1
 Canceling: Fifth Revision Sheet No. 2.1

**GOLDEN VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.****RULES AND REGULATIONS****TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)**

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N,T

Tariff Advice No. TA344-13 Effective:

Issued by: Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc.

By: *John J. Burns for* Title: President & CEO
 John J. Burns

APUC No. 13 Original Sheet No. 22

Cancelling

Sheet No.

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JAN 4 1977

GOLDEN VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

State of Alaska
Public Utilities Commission

RULES AND REGULATIONS

8. SERVICE CONNECTIONS

8.1 General Requirements

As a guide for the applicant or his electrical engineer and contractor regarding an installation, the Association has prepared "Electric Service Requirements", copies of which are on file at all offices. As issued and as modified from time to time without notice, these specifications will be enforced.

The Association will furnish the meter and connect its distribution lines with the member's service equipment. The conduit, wiring, service equipment, enclosure, meter base, disconnect switch, and associated equipment shall be furnished by the member.

8.2 Location

The location of the member's service equipment and point of service connection will be determined by the Association. Alternate service locations preferred by member must be approved in writing by the Association.

8.3 Accessibility of Meter

The Association requires a member to install his service equipment on the building exterior so that all meters are accessible to Association employees from the outside of the member's building. Written exceptions to this rule may be granted by the Association where conditions warrant.

8.4 Primary Service

Where primary voltage service is supplied, the member at his expense and in a manner satisfactory to the Association, shall furnish, install and maintain on his premises such switches, transformers, regulators, relays, capacitors, and other equipment as the Association may deem necessary. The Association will determine whether primary or secondary voltage metering will be installed based on member's load.

Pursuant To
U-76-35 Order No. 7

Tariff Advice No. 22

Effective: JAN 1 1977

Issued by: Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc.

By: *[Signature]* Title: General ManagerRCA No. 13 First Revision Sheet No. 22
Cancelling: Original Sheet No. 22

GOLDEN VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Rule 8. Service Connections

8.01 General Requirements

To assist the Applicant or the Applicant's electrical engineer and/or contractor regarding an installation, the Association has prepared electrical service requirements and guidelines. Copies of these requirements and guidelines are available on the Association's website and/or at its office locations.

The Association will, at its cost, furnish the meter and connect its distribution lines with the Member's service connection equipment in accordance with the Association's Tariff. The conduit, wiring, service equipment, enclosure, meter base, disconnect switch, and associated equipment shall be furnished by the Member.

A requirement under this rule that provides for a Member to make a payment shall be captured in a written service connection agreement. This written service connection agreement must include an estimate of the Member's share of the costs - subject to the 10% rule in 3 AAC 52.455(c), the terms and conditions of payment, and an estimated date of completion of work. The written service connection agreement must be signed by the Member and a representative of the Association.

Notwithstanding the ability of a Member to construct their own service connection, the Member is responsible for installing and maintaining their electrical wiring and equipment in accordance with current applicable electrical and building codes. The Association shall have the ability to inspect the Member's service entrance equipment and may charge an inspection fee. Final approval by the Association is required for all service entrance inspections prior to connection. An inspection of a Member's electric Facilities is for purposes of determining whether the Member's electric Facilities will or will-not harm the Association's Facilities. See Rule 5.03 (Inspection).

8.02 Location

The location of the Member's service connection equipment and Point of Delivery will be determined by the Association. Any other alternative location for a service connection and Point of Delivery desired by the Member must be approved in writing by the Association and may require a Contribution-in-Aid of Construction to be paid by the Member. See Rule 7 (Extension of Facilities).

L - Rule 8.3, Accessibility of Meter, has been relocated to Tariff Sheet No. 23.
L₁ - Rule 8.4, Primary Service, has been relocated to Tariff Sheet No. 23.

Tariff Advice No. TA344-13

Effective:

Issued by: Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc.

By:

[Signature]
John J. Burns

Title: President & CEO

APUC No. 13 Original Sheet No. 23

Cancelling

Sheet No.

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JAN 4 1977

State of Alaska

Public Utilities Commission

GOLDEN VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

8. SERVICE CONNECTIONS (Continued)

8.5 Underground Service

A member may obtain an underground service connection with the Association's underground distribution system by installing and maintaining the underground service connection at his own expense.

8.6 Service to Multi-Occupant Building

The member must arrange the wiring of a multi-occupant building so that the wiring for all stores or apartments will terminate at a common point or points designated by the Association.

8.7 Service to Mobile Home Courts

In order for the occupants of mobile home courts to receive service, the mobile home court owner must furnish, install, and maintain an overhead or underground secondary voltage distribution system in accordance with applicable electric codes and the Association's requirements.

8.8 Change in Location

Any change in the location of a service connection, provided such change is approved by the Association, will be made in accordance with Rule 10.

Pursuant To
U-76-35 Order No. 7

Tariff Advice No. 22

Effective: JAN 1 1977

Issued by: Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc.

By: *OP of [Signature]* Title: General Manager

RCA No. 13 First Revision Sheet No. 23
Cancelling: Original Sheet No. 23



GOLDEN VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Rule 8. Service Connections (continued)

8.03 Accessibility of Meter

The Association requires a Member to install all service connection equipment on the building exterior or on the Member's exterior meter pole/post so that all meters are readily and safely accessible to Association employees from the outside of the Member's facility. The Association may grant written exceptions to this rule, where conditions warrant.

8.04 Primary Service

Where Primary Voltage service is supplied, the Member, at the Member's own expense and in a manner satisfactory to the Association, shall furnish, install, and maintain on the Member's premises such switches, transformers, regulators, relays, capacitors, and other equipment, as the Association may deem necessary. The Association will determine whether Primary Voltage or Secondary Voltage metering will be installed based on the Member's load characteristics.

8.05 Underground Service Connection

A Member requesting an underground service connection shall pay the difference between the cost for an overhead service connection and the actual cost of an underground service connection, plus those additional costs that exceed the amount for which the Association would typically be responsible. See Sections 3.03(b)(Underground System) and Rule 7 (Extension of Facilities).

8.06 Service to Multi-Occupant Building

A Member owning a multi-occupant building must maintain the wiring of a multi-occupant building so that the wiring for all stores, apartments, or other individual units terminate at a common point or points as approved by the Association and all metering and service entrance equipment will be located at the point or points.

L - Language originally located on Tariff Sheet No. 22, Rule 8.3, Accessibility of Meter.
L₁ - Language originally located on Tariff Sheet No. 22, Rule 8.4, Primary Service.

Tariff Advice No. TA344-13

Effective:

Issued by: Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc.

By:

John J. Burns

Title: President & CEO

RCA No. 13 Original Sheet No. 23.1
 Canceling: _____ Sheet No. _____



GOLDEN VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Rule 8. Service Connections (continued)

8.07 Service to Mobile Home Courts

In order for the occupants of mobile home courts to receive Electric Service, the mobile home court owner must furnish, install, and maintain an overhead or underground Secondary Voltage distribution system in accordance with applicable electric codes and the Association's requirements. See Sections 7.05 (Residential or Commercial/Industrial Subdivisions and Mobile Home Courts) and section 8.05 (Underground Service Connection).

8.08 Underground Locate Service

The terms and conditions for underground locate service are as follows:

- 1) Before beginning an excavation, an excavator shall give notice of the proposed excavation to the Association if the Association's underground facilities are in the area of the proposed excavation.
- 2) Except in emergency cases, an excavator shall request locate markings from the Association during normal business hours, not more than fifteen (15) business days and not less than two (2) business days prior to the excavation date.
- 3) An excavator may not begin to excavate until the Association's underground facilities have been field marked by the Association. If an excavator discovers that the Association's underground facility has not been field marked or was inaccurately field marked, the excavator shall immediately stop excavating in the vicinity of the facility and shall immediately notify the Association.
- 4) The Association will charge the locate requestor the actual cost of performing the locate if the locates are requested to be completed in a time period that is less than two (2) business days from the excavation date, or the locates are requested to be completed during non-work hours (excludes emergency locates). See Rule 10 – Special Services.


D – Rule 8.8, Change in Location, has been deleted.

Tariff Advice No. TA344-13

Effective:

Issued by: Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc.

By:


 John J. Burns

Title: President & CEO

RCA No. 13 Original Sheet No. 23.2
 Cancelling: _____ Sheet No. _____



GOLDEN VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

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Rule 8. Service Connections (continued)

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8.08 Underground Locate Service (continued)

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- 5) Locates provided for any purpose other than excavation will be charged at the Association's actual cost associated with performing the locate. See Rule 10 – Special Services.
- 6) The Association will not charge for costs incurred for locate services in the event of an emergency (excludes costs of damages). For purposes of this rule, an emergency is defined as: 1) a condition that constitutes a clear and present danger to life, health, or property; or 2) is an unplanned service interruption. See AS 42.30.490(2) and Rule 10 – Special Services. The Association will charge for locates that are requested as being based on an emergency situation, but where it is later determined to not be an emergency. Any and all damages to the underground facility as defined by AS 42.30.490(1) will be charged by the Association to the excavator at actual cost, regardless of whether the Association was responding emergency locate request.
- 7) The Association reserves the right to pursue all other remedies provided by law if a person violates AS 42.30.400 – AS 42.30.490.
- 8) The Association may charge an excavator for remarking facilities that previously had been marked for the same excavation. See AS 42.30.410(g).
- 9) Billing for charges under this section 8.08 shall be billed within 30 days from the date locate services were performed, and be due and payable within 30 days of invoicing.

N

Tariff Advice No. TA344-13

Effective:

Issued by: Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc.

By:

John J. Burns
 John J. Burns

Title: President & CEO

RCA No. 13 Original Sheet No. 23.3
Canceling: _____ Sheet No. _____



GOLDEN VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

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Tariff Advice No. TA344-13

Effective:

Issued by: Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc.

By:


John J. Burns

Title: President & CEO